

100 Everyday Somali Phrases

A practical phrasebook for beginners

Tip: Learn phrases as complete chunks. You do not have to understand every grammar rule before you start speaking.

Free download for learners of Somali, Swahili and English.

Core phrases

1. Hello / Welcome - Salaan / Soo dhawoow
2. How are you? - Sidee tahay?
3. I am fine. - Waan fiicanahay.
4. What is your name? - Magacaa?
5. My name is... - Magacaygu waa...
6. Where are you from? - Xaggee ka timid?
7. I am from Kenya. - Waxaan ka imid Kenya.
8. Please. - Fadlan.
9. Thank you. - Mahadsanid.
10. You are welcome. - Adaa mudan.
11. Yes. - Haa.
12. No. - Maya.
13. I understand. - Waan fahmay.
14. I do not understand. - Ma fahmin.
15. Please speak slowly. - Fadlan si tartiib ah u hadal.
16. What does this mean? - Tani maxay ka dhigan tahay?
17. How much is it? - Immisa ayuu yahay?
18. Where is the toilet? - Musqushu xaggee tahay?
19. Help me, please. - I caawi, fadlan.
20. See you later. - Mar dambe ayaan is arki doonaa.
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Practice

Choose ten phrases and write a short dialogue. Read it aloud twice. Then swap one word in each sentence to create a new version.